KCR 100 Lapper

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Rick Crow Wins 100 Lapper At Kern County

Story and photos by Terry Whytal
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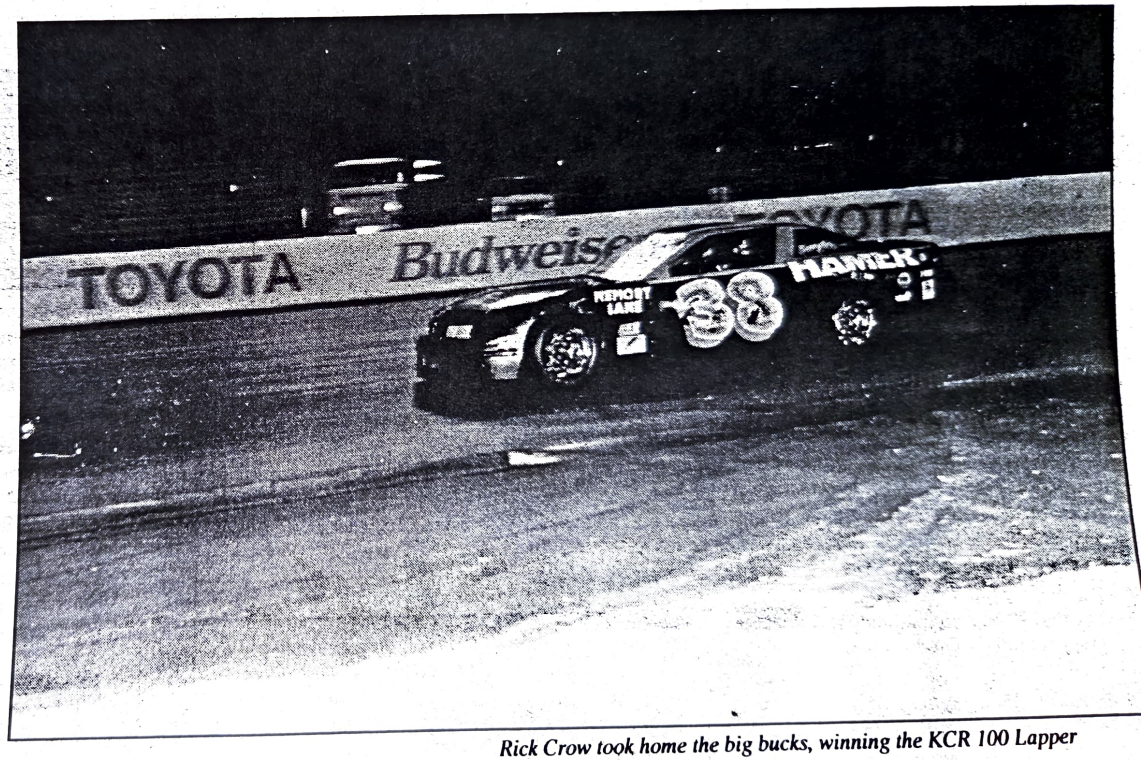
KCR's first ever 100 lapper event featured just about every twist and turn you could imagine in a race, including the eventual disqualification of the apparent winner. When all the dust settled and the crews finally headed home at 4 am after a marathon engine tear-down session, Simi Valley's Rick Crow was moved up a position a declared the winner.

"This win is really special because it's actually my honeymoon," Crow said later. "Cherilyne and I just got married and she is so understanding, she let me race on our honeymoon. She even worked the radio! I've also got to thank my crew chief Gary Silvers for giving me such a good car and the Hall's for putting on a great race."

The Street Stock 100 Lapper started with 22 cars on the track and Dean Johnson on the pole. Crow dropped into second at the



Rick Crow took home the big bucks, winning the KCR 100 Lapper on his Honeymoon!

wave of the green, followed by Ron Hornaday III and Don Hefler. Within a few laps, Gerrit Cromsigt had charged into third as Hornaday faded with mechanical problems.

The action really heated up on lap ten as Crow felt the pressure from Cromsigt and used the outside line to run alongside Johnson for several laps before finally getting past. Cromsigt soon followed as Johnson's car suddenly quit and he coasted to the infield. Scott Dinger quickly charged his machine into third past Hefler just as David Virgini nailed the wall on the turn four exit to bring out the first yellow of the race.

Crow and Cromsigt swapped paint and position on the restart as Cromsigt's car seemed to work best with cold tires and Crow's better with warm rubber. Cromsigt pulled away for a few laps then started to get loose and Crow reeled him back in. Hornaday got back on the gas temporarily and repassed several cars to move up to fourth before once again fading.

At mid-point Crow was back in the lead and Combined Track Champion Greg Benner had worked into the top five after an inverted start. Dana Moore charged from a mid-pack start to challenge the top five. The final few laps before the break at 75 laps, featured lots of pushing and banging, with Cromsigt leading at the line over Crow, Hefler, Moore and Benner.

The final 25 lap sprint was marred by repeat crashes and spins and several restarts, but when the checkers finally flew, Cromsigt led Crow, Helfer, Benner, and a hard-charging Kevin Wood. The top ten cars were then torn-down and Cromsigt was found to have a stroked motor and was DQ'd. Everyone moved up a spot and San Fernando's Tom Wilson gained the fifth spot. Only half the field completed the 100 laps.

The evening also featured a 40 lap Daredevil Stock event. Top guns Howie Smith, Todd Kessler and Track Champ Dana Rea all ran into trouble allowing Venice Beach resident Jerry Toporek to climb through the field in the old "You're in a heap of Trouble" former police car and claim the win over Bob Cunningham and Rea.

Four of the new Mini Cup cars took to the track for an exhibition race, but two went on their heads in seperate incidents and the race was halted early. The official finish was Rob Walton, Jim Holtz, Jeff Martin and Ray Walton.